

VAMPIRE GAME

JUDAL



8

TOKYOPOP

VAMPIRE GAME

Volume 8

by

JUDAL



HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO



VAMPIRE GAME

The Story Thus Far...

This is the tale of the Vampire King Duzell and his quest for revenge against the good King Phelios, a valiant warrior who slew the vampire a century ago. Now Duzell has returned, reincarnated as a feline foe to deliver woe to...well, that's the problem. Who is the reincarnation of King Phelios?

Sir Keld has informed Ishtar that her Aunt Sonia, the benevolent lady of Zi Alda, is dying. But when Ishtar, Duzell and Darres rush to be by her side, they find Lady Sonia in good health, her "fatal" illness little more than a head cold. Convinced this is more than a simple misunderstanding, Ishtar figures that Sir Keld is plotting again. After all, if she were to wed Sonia's son Yuujel, Keld would become part of the royal family.

However, Ishtar has no interest in marrying Yuujel. In fact, she flat-out despises him. Besides, there's the matter of finding Yuujel first, as the prince of Zi Alda has been notoriously MIA for the past few months, a fact that's perfectly fine with Ishtar. She has enough on her plate, what with Duzell's newfound ability to appear as his old self, her pending revenge against Keld, and the unwelcome attention of Lady Leene and her raven-haired sorceress, Diaage. Leene, you see, is in love with Yuujel (despite being married to his best friend) and she's positive that Yuujel has set his sights on Ishtar. Which in turn means that she must set her sights on her as well, and squeeze the trigger.

And what better way to do it than a morning ride? Especially when you've replaced the princess' horse with the untamed, unbroken and completely unpredictable Backbreaker. But the last laugh may be on Leene. After all, her beloved Yuujel has been spending quality time with Ishtar for well over a year now...as her magic instructor, Yujinn.





吸血遊戯
ゼ・アルダ
南領篇
Act.4



Table of Contents

Zi Alda Act 4	9
Zi Alda Act 5	39
Zi Alda Act 6	71
Zi Alda Act 7	103
Zi Alda Act 8	135
Zi Alda Act 9	167
Not Your Average Afterword	200



ISHTAR
AND
LEENE...

TOGETHER...



YUUJEL...
I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT'S
GOING
ON...

...BUT IF
PRINCESS
ISHTAR--
AND WITH
HER, YOUR
CHANCES OF
BECOMING
OUR NEXT
KING--
IS IN
DANGER...

...THEN
MOVE
QUICKLY!
INDULGE
ME. ALLOW
AN OLD MAN
TO HELP YOU
IN ANY WAY
HE CAN.



コクン



AHEM!

I MEAN
YUJINN.
YES, I
SAID
YUJINN...



OR
RATHER,
OUR WAY!
WHY DON'T
YOU BORROW
ONE OF OUR
LILKE RINGS?
TELEPORTATION
IS SO MUCH
FASTER THAN
RIDING.

I'M
GLAD
YOU
FINALLY
SEE IT
MY WAY!



THANKS,
BUT I
THINK I
PREFER
TO RIDE.





I DON'T KNOW WHAT HIS NAME IS, BUT HE'S WAY BIGGER AND STRONGER! I'LL BET IF HE WANTED TO, HE COULD SNAP ME LIKE A TWIG!

BUT AS FOR THE NAG...

...I DON'T THINK IT'LL BE A PROBLEM. THIS IS A DIFFERENT HORSE!

HOW DID YOU--?



あせ。

YOUR MAJESTY...



...I HEAR YOU'RE QUITE THE RIDER!

SO, PRINCESS...



STILL, YOU'LL PROBABLY OUTFRIDE ME. AFTER ALL, I'M USED TO RIDING... GOATS.

TOO BAD YOU'LL BE STUCK SPURRING ON THAT OLD NAG. LADY SONIA SHOULD HAVE PUT HER OUT TO PASTURE YEARS AGO.



SHE LOOKS FAMILIAR...

...LIKE I'VE SEEN HER SOMEWHERE BEFORE.



YEAH... SORRY ABOUT THAT.





I'VE
GOT TO
TRY HIM
OUT!

HE HAS
THE
SAME
EYES
AS
DUZIE.



I'M
GOING
TO RIDE
HIM!

DON'T
BOTHER.

WELL,
HAVE
FUN! I'LL
JUST TAKE
THIS GUY
BACK TO THE
STABLES AND
SEE IF I CAN
FIGURE OUT
WHO HE
BELONGS
TO.



?!



THERE'S
SOMETHING
ABOUT
HIS
EYES...

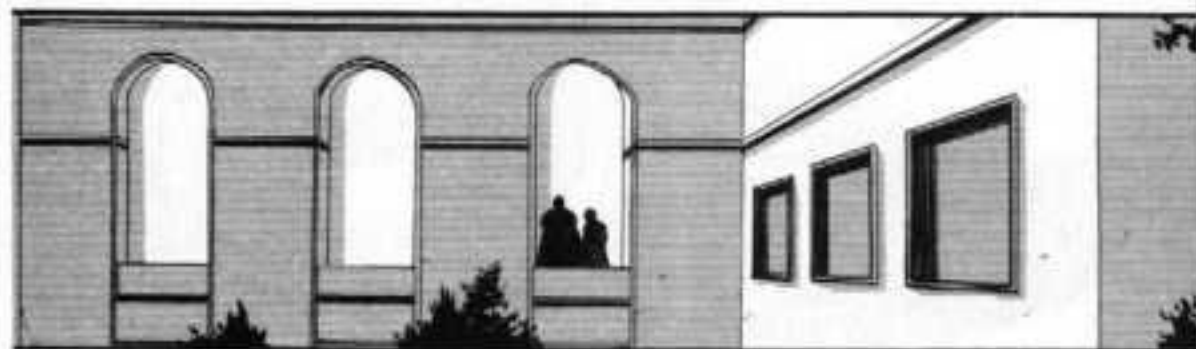
...THAT
REMINDS
ME OF A
FRIEND
OF MINE.

A
GOOD
FRIEND!



IT WAS SO OBVIOUS. I THINK THE ENTIRE COURT WAS WAGERING ON WHETHER THEY'D END UP TOGETHER...

I KNOW LEBNE'S HAD STRONG FEELINGS FOR YUUJEL SINCE THEY WERE CHILDREN.







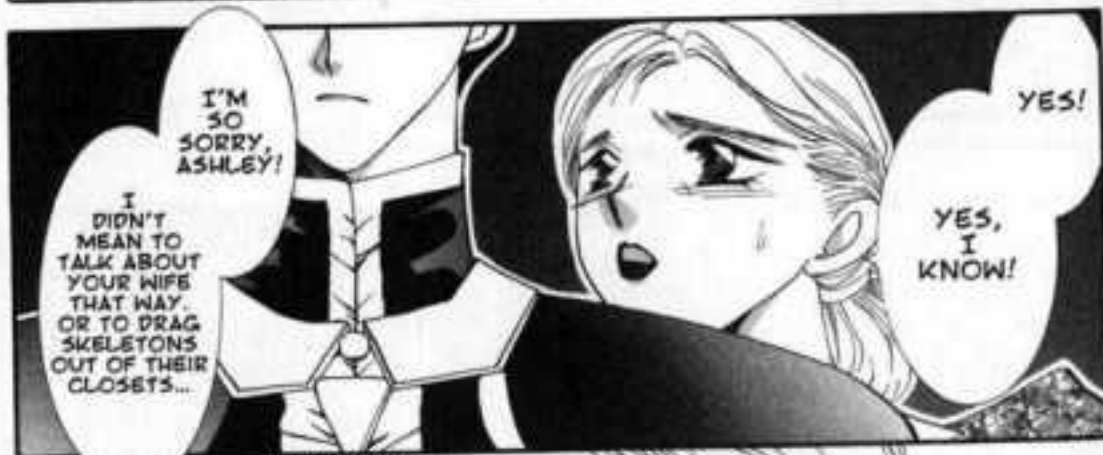
LADY SONIA...



...THEIR SUICIDE PACT WASN'T YOUR FAULT. YOU CAN'T BLAME YOURSELF FOR THE FOLLY OF YOUTH.

THAT'S ALL BEHIND US NOW. LEENE AND I ARE HAPPILY MARRIED.

SUICIDE?



I'M SO SORRY, ASHLEY!

I DIDN'T MEAN TO TALK ABOUT YOUR WIFE THAT WAY. OR TO DRAG SKELETONS OUT OF THEIR CLOSETS...

YES!

YES, I KNOW!



AND HE KNEW...

YES...

...HOW MUCH I WANTED HIM TO MARRY PRINCESS ISHTAR. OUR SIDE OF THE FAMILY HAS SUCH A WEAK LINK TO THE BLOOD OF OUR PROTECTOR, ST. PHELIOS.

I THOUGHT IT WAS IN ALL OF OUR BEST INTERESTS TO STRENGTHEN OUR TIES TO WHAT'S LEFT OF HIS LINE. MAYBE HE WAS JUST BEING STUBBORN, BUT...

...I SUPPOSE THAT MUST BE IT.



...AT ANY RATE, I CERTAINLY DIDN'T CONSIDER YUJEL'S FEELINGS.

OR LEENE'S, FOR THAT MATTER. OR EVEN PRINCESS ISHTAR'S.



...HAVE BEEN SO HORRIBLE?

HOW COULD I...

WHAT KIND OF A MOTHER PUSHES HER OWN CHILD TO TRY AND KILL HIMSELF? AND POOR LEENE...





...YOU UP
FOR A
LITTLE
STEEPLE-
CHASE?

OKAY,
LEENE



IT'S
OKAY!
I LIKE
THIS
HORSE!

AND I
THINK
HE
LIKES
ME
TOO!



HUH?!



IF SHE
DIES HERE,
I'LL NEVER
KNOW IF SHE'S
PHELIOS.

I'VE GOT
TO KEEP
HER ALIVE
LONG ENOUGH
TO FIND OUT.



PRINCESS
ISHTAR!

BE
CAREFUL!





BUT
CAN YOU
PLEASE
SLOW
DOWN
AND LET
ME OFF
FIRST?!

OKAY, MR. MYSTERY HORSE, THAT WAS A 30-FOOT CLIFF YOU JUST JUMPED OFF!

IF
YOU
WANT
TO KILL
YOURSELF,
FINE!

WHAT WOULD
DARRES DO IN
THIS SITUATION?
C'MON, ISHTAR!
THINK!

I DON'T
THINK HE'S
LISTENING...

33



I CAN
RESPECT
THAT.

LUCKY'S NEVER BEEN CONTENT TO SIMPLY GO WITH THE FLOW PERSONALLY. I THINK SHE JUST LIKES BEING DIFFICULT.



?!



THAT'S
BECAUSE
SHE CAN'T
RIDE LIKE
THAT!



WAIT A MINUTE

MY GOD!
DID YOU
SEE HER
CLEAR THAT
FENCE?
I DIDN'T
KNOW
ISHAR
COULD
RIDE LIKE
THAT!



FORGET
IT! DON'T
ANSWER
THAT!
JUST GET
ME MY
BLOOD
HORSE!

**SHE
CAN'T?!
THEN WHAT
THE HELL
ARE WE JUST
STANDING
AROUND
HERE
FOR?!**

32







吸血遊戯

セ・アルダ
南領篇

Act.5



IN
PERSON.

ALTHOUGH,
THEY HAVE
A DIFFERENT
NAME FOR
ME HERE.

DO YOU
REMEMBER
A SILLY
LITTLE BOY
NAMED
YUUJEL?



GRIN

WHAT?!!
YOU'RE...?!
NO WAY!!!





OH,
IT'S
YOU,
DUZIE!



I HEARD
HE TRIED
TO COMMIT
SUICIDE WITH
ASHLEY'S WIFE.
SHE WAS IN
LOVE WITH
HIM OR
SOMETHING.

I'll never
understand
you humans.
Throwing your
little lives
around like
they mean
something.



OKAY,
THAT'S
COOL
AND
ALL, BUT
THAT'S
NOT WHAT
I WAS...



YOU'RE
NOT
GOING TO
BELIEVE
THIS! YOU
KNOW MY
COUSIN,
YUUJEL?



...HOW
ABOUT
A BEER,
PART-
NER?!

NO
KIDDING?

WELL,
IF YOU
PUT IT
THAT
WAY...



NOW YOU'RE TALKIN'!!!

They've got to
stop grading the
guards' exam
on a curve...





ISN'T THAT WHAT I JUST SAID?
BUT NOT YUJINN, THAT OTHER GUY... YUUJEL..



THEY HAD A SUICIDE PACT?! AND THEY TRIED TO GO THROUGH WITH IT?!

LEENE ...

...AND YUJINN!!!



DUZIE...

...THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO TELL YOU!



THAT CAN'T BE!!

YOU
KNOW I
GET A FUNNY
FEELING WHEN
HE'S AROUND!
THERE'S NO
WAY I CAN
BITE HIM!!

THIS
CAN'T BE
HAPPENING
!!!

YOU
GET A
FUNNY
FEELING
AROUND
YUJINN?

YOU
LITTLE
DEVIL!

Oh,
shut up!



I SAID
THAT
YUJINN IS
REALLY MY
COUSIN
YUUJEL!



HUH?

YUJINN IS
YUUJEL!



YUUJIN = YUUJEL
YUJINN = ROYALTY
YUJINN = MIGHT BE
PHELIOS

WHAT,
WHAT,
WHAAAT?!!



YOU'RE
NOT
GOING
TO TELL
ME SHE'S
PHELIOS
NOW, ARE
YOU?



OF
COURSE
NOT!



...SHE'S
REALLY...

IT'S
JUST
THAT...



YOUR
AUNT
SONIA...



FORGET
THE
FEELING.
WE HAVE
MORE
IMPORTANT
THINGS TO
DISCUSS.



AND
SHE'S
REALLY...
UM,
WELL...

...I HAD
SOME
OF HER
BLOOD
TODAY.





I'M
SORRY, I
SHOULDN'T
HAVE SAID
THAT.



WHAT
DO YOU
HAVE
TO
LOSE?



IF I CAN
BREAK
THIS HORSE
SO THAT
ANYONE
CAN RIDE
HIM, WILL
YOU AGREE
TO LET HIM
LIVE?

LOOK,
I'LL
MAKE
A DEAL
WITH
YOU...



IT SENT
THREE OF
THE GROOMS
TO THE
INFIRMARY! NO
ONE COULD
GET NEAR IT,
MUCH LESS
RIDE IT! AND
WHAT'S MORE,
I'M NOT
USED TO THE
PALACE STAFF
DISOBEYING
MY ORDERS!

THERE'S
SOMETHING
NOT RIGHT
ABOUT THAT
STALLION.
IT CONTINUED
ITS RAMPAGE
LONG AFTER
WE RETURNED
IT TO THE
STABLE!



THE
PRINCESS
ISN'T TO
BLAME.

I SAW HER
MOUNT THE
HORSE, SHE
DID NOTHING
OUT OF THE
ORDINARY.



TRUST ME,
IF ANYONE
DESERVES
TO BE PUT
DOWN,
IT'S THE
PRINCESS!



YOU'RE
WRONG. I'VE
BEEN RIDING
HORSES SINCE
CHILDHOOD, AND
ONE THING I
LEARNED IS THAT
THERE'S NO SUCH
THING AS A BAD
HORSE. JUST
INCOMPETENT
HUMANS, TRYING
TO COVER
THEIR OWN
ASSES.



?!
.....



LUCY,
WHY DON'T
YOU LET
HIM TRY IT?

YOU
NEVER
KNOW,
HE MIGHT
SURPRISE
YOU.

OR HE
MIGHT GET
HIS NECK
BROKEN.
EITHER WAY,
IT SHOULD BE
ENTERTAINING.



YOU'LL
WHAT?

...NO
ONE CAN
BLAME
YOU FOR
LETTING THE
PRINCESS
RIDE A
DANGEROUS
ANIMAL.
DEAL?

I'LL
TRAIN HIM
SO THAT
EVEN THE
WORST
RIDER CAN
HANDLE HIM.
THAT WAY...



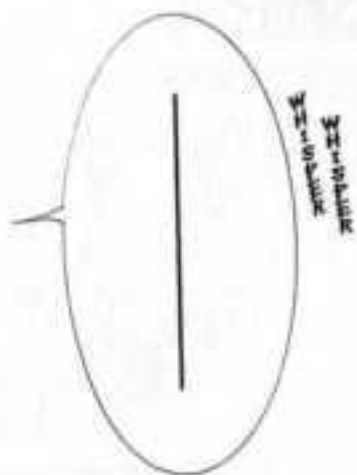
YOU
OBVIOUSLY
DON'T KNOW
SIR DARRES!

HE HAS
A SPECIAL
PLACE IN
HIS HEART
FOR DUMB
ANIMALS.

LIKE
THEY'RE
FAMILY OR
SOMETHING.



I GUESS
SO. BUT
WHAT'S IN
IT FOR YOU?





YOU DON'T SAY. WELL, YES, UM, HE IS VERY GOOD AT THAT DOCTORING STUFF...



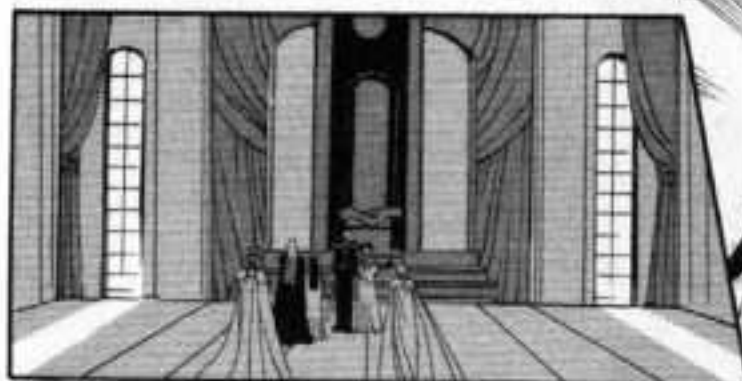
THANK YOU, ISHTAR!

IF YOUR PERSONAL DOCTOR HADN'T HAPPENED BY, I DON'T KNOW WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE!

I THOUGHT MY HEART WAS GOING TO STOP! IT FELT LIKE THERE WASN'T A DROP OF BLOOD LEFT IN MY VEINS!

YOU DON'T DO HIM JUSTICE. I'M FEELING BETTER THAN I HAVE IN YEARS!

And he's easy on the eyes! That's one doctor I wouldn't mind playing doctor with!



WHAAT?!!



HE'S
HERE!
I JUST
SAW
HIM!



YOU DID?
HOW
SPLENDID!

GOSH, THE
LAST TIME YOU
TWO SAW EACH
OTHER YOU WERE
PRACTICALLY
TODDLERS. YOU
KNOW, THEY
SAY YOU NEVER
FORGET YOUR
FIRST LOVE...

Or your
first enemy!



THANK
YOU
AGAIN,
GOOD
DOCTOR!



EITHER
WAY, HE
HAS MY
SYM-
PATHIES.

ISHTAR
HAS HER
OWN
DOCTOR?
DOES HE
TREAT THE
INJURIES
SHE
GETS...OR
INFLECTS?



I
HAVEN'T
SEEN HIM
YET, BUT
I HEAR...

OH,
AND I
HAVE
MORE
GOOD
NEWS!



KNOWING
MY BOY...

...HE'LL
PROBABLY
STROLL INTO
THE HALL
DURING ONE
OF OUR DINNER
PARTIES AND
POUR HIMSELF
SOME WINE,
AS IF HE HAD
NEVER LEFT.

...MY SON,
YUUGEL,
IS BACK
HOME!
ISN'T THAT
EXCITING?!

SUCH
A NICE
SURPRISE!



BUT I'M FINE, REALLY.

THANK YOU FOR THINKING OF ME, ISHTAR. YOU'RE TOO KIND.



AND AS LONG AS YOUR DOCTOR'S HERE, I CAN GUARANTEE IT WON'T BE THE LAST.



ANYWAYS, AUNT SONIA...













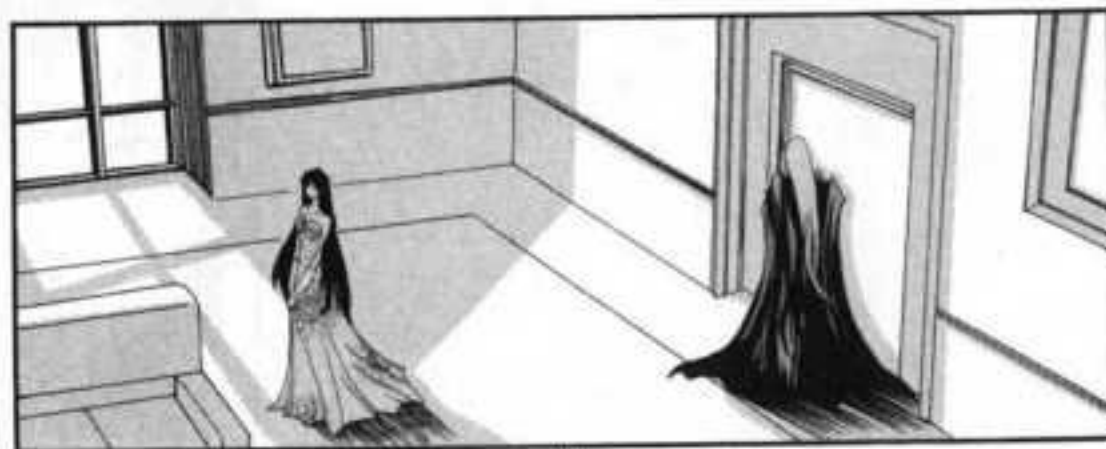
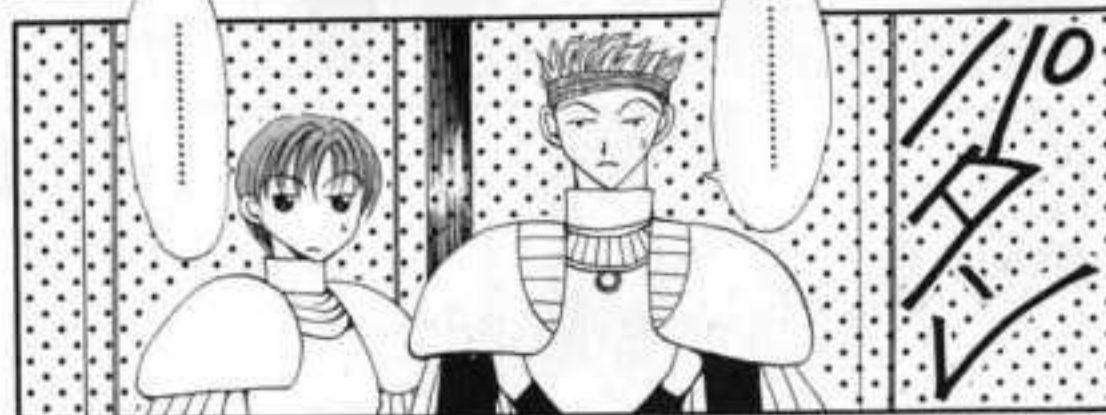






"...WITH
HIS BEST
FRIEND'S
WIFE..."







VAMPIRE?

IF YOU
WANT MY
HELP, WHY
DON'T YOU
JUST ASK?



IT'S QUITE
EASY, AND
RELATIVELY
PAINLESS...



ISN'T
THAT
WHAT
ALL YOU
HUMANS
WANT?
TO LIVE
FOREVER?

I COULD
GIVE IT
TO HER,
YOU KNOW.
ETERNAL
LIFE...



SO
WHAT
YOU'RE
SAYING IS
THAT SHE'S
GOING TO
GO SOON...



...OR A
WIZARD...
OR A...



I WISH
THERE WAS
SOMETHING
I COULD
DO ABOUT
IT. IF ONLY
I WERE A
DOCTOR...



...BUT
YOU'RE
NOT SURE
WHEN?





THAT'S
KINDA
GROSS,
DUZIE.
AUNT
SONIA'S
ANCIENT.



FRIENDS?

YOU
MEAN...

...YOU'D
BE WILLING
TO DRINK
AUNT SONIA'S
BLOOD AND
MAKE HER
ONE OF YOUR
VAMPIRE
FRIENDS?

I SUPPOSE
THAT'S ONE
WAY OF
PUTTING IT.
THOUGH IT'S
NOT LIKE
WE'D BE BEST
BUDDIES OR
ANYTHING.

WE'D
BE
MORE
LIKE...

WELL, LIKE
LOVERS,
I SUPPOSE.

SO
AM
I.



YEAH,
BUT SHE
LOOKS IT.
YOU DON'T.
BESIDES,
I CAN'T
SEE AUNT
SONIA AS
A VAMPIRE.
SHE FAINTS
AT THE
SIGHT OF
BLOOD.



SO
AM
I.



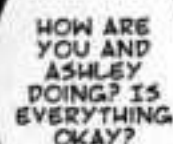
ISHTAR...



BUT
IN THIS
RELATIONSHIP,
I'D HAVE
ALL THE
CONTROL.



LEENE...



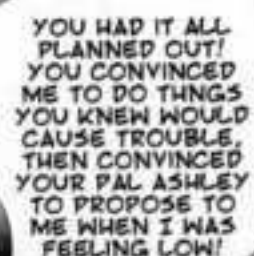
HOW ARE YOU AND ASHLEY DOING? IS EVERYTHING OKAY?



NO, IT'S NOT! AND YOU KNOW IT!!



YOU TRICKED ME!



YOU HAD IT ALL PLANNED OUT! YOU CONVINCED ME TO DO THINGS YOU KNEW WOULD CAUSE TROUBLE, THEN CONVINCED YOUR PAL ASHLEY TO PROPOSE TO ME WHEN I WAS FEELING LOW!



HE MIGHT MAKE A GOOD VAMPIRE. AND IF HE WAS IMMORTAL, I'D NEVER HAVE TO WATCH HIM...



...GROW OLD AND DIE.



DARRES, ON THE OTHER HAND...





...THAT
NO
MATTER
WHAT
HAPPENED,
YOU WOULD
ALWAYS BE
THE MAN I
LOVED!

I'LL NEVER
LET ANYONE
ELSE HAVE
YOU! EVER!
REMEMBER
THAT!!



TROUBLE?
WHAT
KIND OF
TROUBLE?

I
TOLD
YOU...

WHY?!
DO YOU
HATE
ME
THAT
MUCH?!

YOU
WANTED
ME TO
GIVE UP!

AND WITH ISHTAR INVOLVED, THE CHANCE OF DISASTER IS HIGH.

MATCHMAKING IS OBVIOUSLY NOT ONE OF MY STRENGTHS.

PRINCESS ISHTAR WAS MY FIRST LOVE.

YOU'LL PROBABLY NEVER BELIEVE THIS, BUT I ASSURE YOU IT'S TRUE.

WHAT?

YOU CAN'T REALLY MEAN THAT! BUT THE FIRST TIME YOU SAW HER, YOU WERE THIRTEEN AND SHE WAS FIVE! THAT'S NOT LOVE, THAT'S JUST SICK!



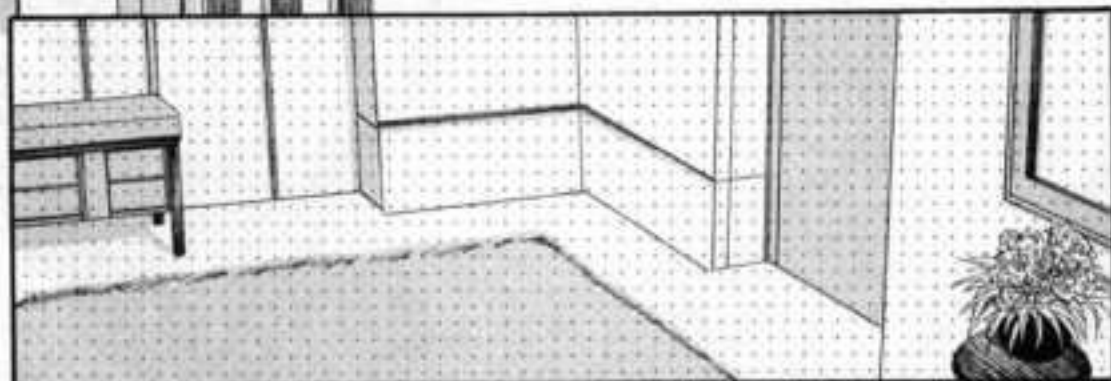
BUT GETTING BACK TO PRINCESS ISHTAR...

SOMETHING LIKE THAT. IT'S A LONG STORY.

FRIEND OF YOURS?



ON SECOND THOUGHT, MAYBE I SHOULD LET THIS LITTLE MESS BE A LESSON TO ME.





OF COURSE,
THE SAME
THING COULD
BE SAID OF
VAMPIRES...



WE
COULD.

BUT KILLING
HER ISN'T
PERMANENT
ENOUGH TO
SATISFY YOUR
TASTE FOR
VENGEANCE.
TRUST ME
ON THAT.

NO,
THERE
ARE FAR
BETTER
WAYS
TO GET
REVENGE.



BUT
YOU COULD
USE YOUR
MAGIC ON
THE WOMAN
HE'S IN
LOVE WITH,
RIGHT?

CAN'T WE
JUST GET
RID OF
PRINCESS
ISHTAR?



THERE HAS TO
BE A SPELL FOR
THIS, RIGHT?
SOMETHING
THAT WILL
MAKE HIM
FORGET ABOUT
HER AND FALL
IN LOVE WITH
ME?

DAMMIT,
DIAAGE!
WHAT AM
I GOING
TO DO?!



THAT'S WHAT I LOVE
ABOUT YOU HUMANS.
YOUR CAPACITY FOR LOVE
MAKES YOU WEAK AND
EASY TO MANIPULATE.

I'M
SORRY,
MY DEAR.
THERE
ARE SOME
THINGS
THAT EVEN
MAGIC
CAN'T
DO.



?!
..

...BUT
ALSO THE
STRENGTH
TO DIE.



SHE'LL
DRIFT
THROUGH
EXISTENCE
TOO
MISERABLE
TO EVEN
TAKE HER
OWN LIFE.

THEN
AGAIN, THIS
IS PRETTY
STRONG
REVENGE
FOR WHAT
AMOUNTS
TO A LITTLE
LOVE SPAT.



WHAT
DO YOU
MEAN
IT'S NOT
PERMANENT
ENOUGH?



OH,
NEVER
MIND.
WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?



ONCE IT'S
ALL GONE AND
YOU'VE PUT
HER IN SUCH
EXQUISITE
AGONY...

...YOU'LL
NOT ONLY
HAVE
ROBBED
HER OF
THE WILL
TO LIVE...

I'M NOT
JUST
TALKING
ABOUT
TAKING
AWAY
HER WILL
TO LIVE.
THAT'S
FAR TOO
SIMPLE.

TAKE AWAY
EVERYTHING
SHE LOVES.
TAKE EVERY-
THING SHE
NEEDS.



MAKE
HER
SUFFER.



A
LITTLE
LOVE
SPAT?!



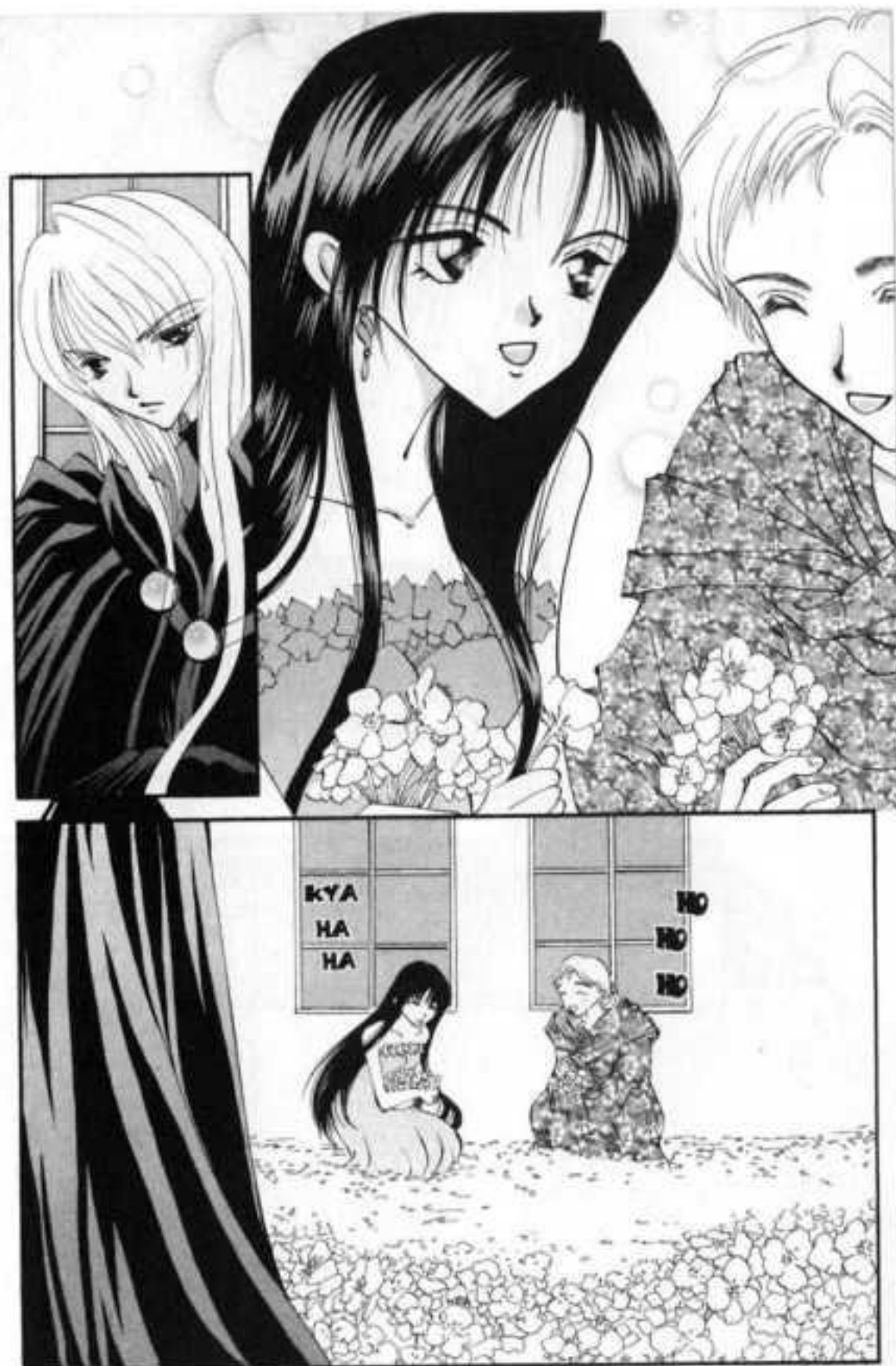
C'MON,
ARE WE
GONNA
POP THIS
PRINCESS
OR WHAT?!

SO, UM,
WHERE DO
WE START?
WHAT'S THE
FIRST STEP?

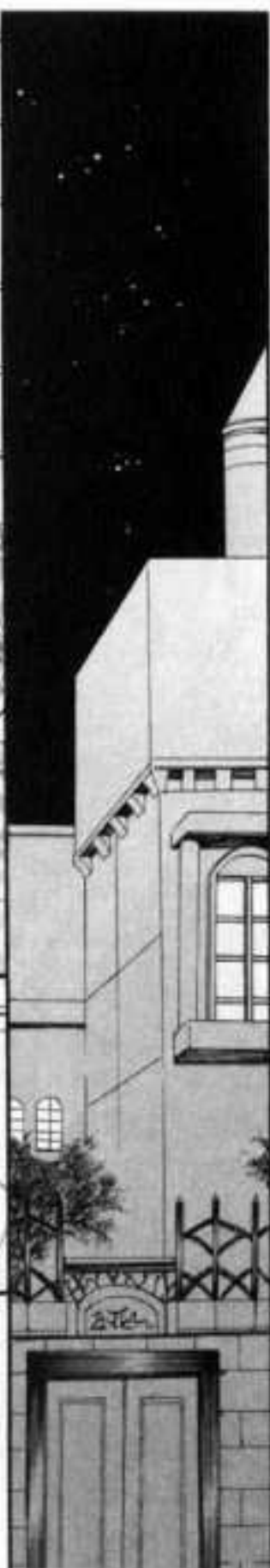
AND IF SHE
LACKS THE
STRENGTH
TO OFF
HERSELF,
I CAN
ALWAYS PAY
SOMEONE
TO DO IT
FOR ME!

IT'S
PERFECT,
DIAAGE!
I WON'T
REST UNTIL
ISHTAR
DIES OF
MISERY!









吸血遊戯
セ・アルグ
南領篇
Act.7



I SUPPOSE
YOU CAN
SAY THAT
WE'RE
FAMILY.



YOU
NEVER
TOLD
ME YOU
HAD A
FAMILY!



FAMILY?



WELL,
DUZIE...
YOU'VE
BEEN
HOLDING
OUT ON
ME.

WHY DON'T
YOU TELL
ME WHAT'S
GOING ON
BETWEEN
YOU AND MISS
MIDNIGHT
OVER
THERE?



YOU
MEAN
DIAAGE?

WE
WEREN'T
LOVERS,
IF THAT'S
WHAT
YOU'RE
INFERRING.
HARDLY
EVEN
FRIENDS,
IN FACT.



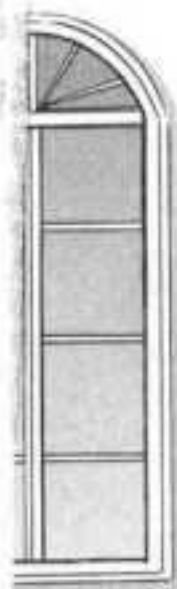
MY LORD IS
INDISPOSED!
HE MUSTN'T
BE BOTHERED.

MY ORDERS
ARE TO LET
NO ONE PASS.
IF YOU GO IN
THERE, IT WILL
BE BOTH OF
OUR NECKS!



LADY DIAAGE!

LADY DIAAGE!



...WAS A
VAMPIRE
COUNTESS.

IN FACT, I
DON'T EVEN
THINK THAT'S
THE SAME
DIAAGE. BUT
WHOEVER
SHE IS, SHE
LOOKS JUST
LIKE HER.

I
DOUBT
IT.



YOU
MEAN
SHE'S A
VAMPIRE?!
WHAT'S SHE
DOING HERE?
IS SHE
LOOKING
FOR
PHELIOS
TOO?

THE
DIAAGE
I
KNEW...



HAVE YOU
LOST YOUR
MIND? I
REALLY
HOPE THIS
WAR WITH
THE HUMANS
IS YOUR IDEA
OF A BAD
JOKE.



...BUT I
DON'T SEE
HOW MY
SPORT
WITH THE
HUMANS
CONCENS
YOU.

YOUR
INTRUSION
HONORS ME,
OF COURSE...

TACTFUL
AS ALWAYS,
DIAAGE.



...GOING
TO WAR
THESE
DAYS?

INDIS-
POSED...
IS THAT
WHAT
THEY
CALL...



NO,
THE
DIAAGE
I KNEW...



...WOULDN'T
FORGET ME.
CERTAINLY
NOT AFTER
A MERE ONE
HUNDRED
YEARS.



WHY,
DUZELL.

...WHEREVER
DID YOU
HEAR
SUCH A
RIDICULOUS
THING?

WHEN
YOU BAD
BOYS GET
TOGETHER,
YOU'RE
WORSE THAN
A ROOM FULL
OF SCHOOL-
GIRLS.

I MEAN,
IMAGINE! YOU!
AGAINST ME?
I'M SURE EVEN
SOMEONE
AS DOUR AS
YOU CAN SEE
THE HUMOR
IN THAT! I'D
GIGGLE MYSELF
TO PIECES
WHILE BINDING
YOUR SOUL
TO ETERNAL
DAMNATION...



PERHAPS
A BATTLE
BETWEEN
THE TWO OF
US WOULD
BE MORE
FULFILLING
THAN TOYING
WITH THOSE
PITIFUL
LITTLE
HUMANS,
EH?

WELL,
UNLESS
YOU'RE JUST
AS BORED WITH
THIS EXISTENCE
AS I AM. TELL
ME, DO YOU
REALLY THINK
I'VE BECOME
"POMPOUS AND
PATHETIC"?
OR IS THAT
JUST THE
KIND OF THING
THAT GETS
WHISPERED
BEHIND MY
BACK?





...FOR A VAMPIRE CONSPIRACY OR SOMETHING!

MAYBE SHE REALLY IS SHARLEN...OR ONE OF HIS PROGENY.

BUT THEN, IF SHARLEN'S SO YOUNG THAT HE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW ME...

HOW WOULD HE KNOW ABOUT DIAAGE? MUCH LESS WHAT SHE LOOKED LIKE?





HUH?
DUZIE!
WHERE
ARE
YOU...?

PROMISE
THAT YOU'LL
STAY WHERE
DARRES CAN
SEE YOU!



THINK
YOU'LL
GET HER
BACK ON
IT?

...I HEAR
YOU'VE BEEN
SPENDING SOME
SERIOUS TIME
WITH THAT HORSE.
I GUESS COM-
PARED TO THE
PRINCESS, THAT
MOUNT'S A
PUSHOVER.

SO,
CAPTAIN...



I'VE
STILL
GOT A
LONG
WAY
TO GO.

WHENEVER
SOMEONE
ELSE TRIES
TO RIDE
HIM...
...HE
STARTS
BUCKING.

WHAT'S
THE
PROBLEM?

I
DON'T
KNOW.



I
SUPPOSE
IT'S POSSIBLE...

...THAT REALLY
IS DIAAGE,
AND SHARLEN'S
USE OF THE
NAME IS JUST
COINCIDENCE.

HELL OF A
COINCIDENCE,
THOUGH.
UNLESS...

ISHTAR,
I'VE GOT
TO CHECK
SOMETHING
OUT.



.....

HE JUST SHOWED UP WITH THE PRINCESS THIS AFTERNOON. SHE ACTED LIKE IT WAS COMPLETELY NORMAL, SO WE DIDN'T THINK ANYTHING OF IT.

HER PERSONAL DOCTOR. IT WAS NEW TO US TOO. I DIDN'T REALIZE SHE HAD ONE.



UH... DOOLEY-BELL OR SOMETHING.

WHAT'S HIS NAME?



THAT'S THE VAMPIRE KING DUZELL, YOU MEATHEAD!!!

DOOLEYBELL?! I DON'T BELIEVE THIS...

D-DOCTOR DOOLEYBELL IS REALLY THE VAMPIRE KING DUZELL?!



WHO'S THE CREEP TALKING TO ISHTAR? SHE'S BEEN ON HIS ARM ALL NIGHT.

BUT FORGET THE HORSE.

I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM BEFORE, AND I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT HIM, BUT IF THERE'S ONE THING I KNOW, IT'S THAT PLATINUM BLONDES ARE ALWAYS TROUBLE.



OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM!

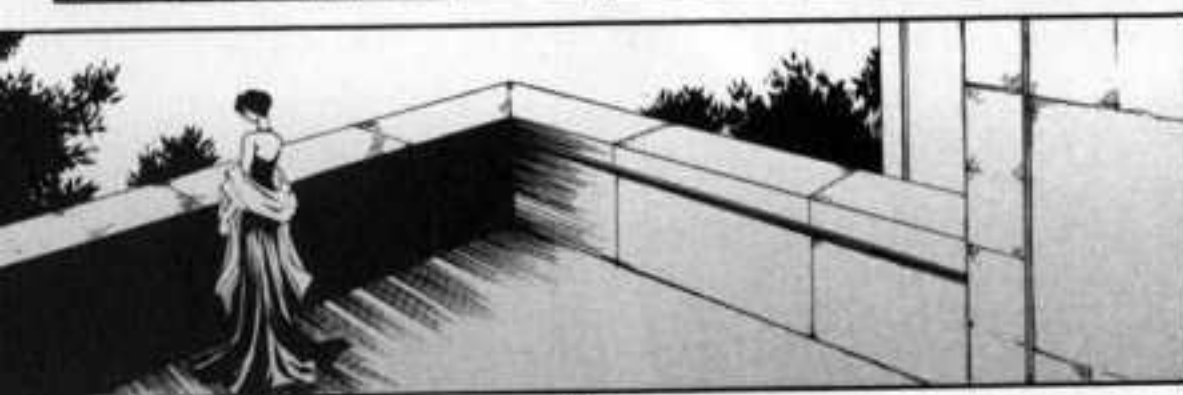


HER WHAT?



WE MAY LOOK LIKE A MANIC-DEPRESSIVE GYPSY, BUT HE'S ACTUALLY PRINCESS ISHTAR'S PERSONAL DOCTOR!

HEY,
THAT'S
....!



MORE
THAN
LIKELY,
THIS DR.
DUZELL
IS JUST
ANOTHER
NICKNAME.

HO, HO, HO! HANG
ON A SECOND,
GUYS! I THINK
WHAT WE HAVE
HERE IS JUST A BIG
MISUNDERSTANDING.
EVER SINCE ISHTAR
CHOSE "DUZELL"
FOR THE NAME OF
HER PET, SHE'S BEEN
USING VARIATIONS OF
IT AS ALIASES FOR
HERSELF.

WHICH, OF
COURSE,
MEANS THAT
THE DOCTOR'S
NOT THE
VAMPIRE KING,
BUT PRINCESS
ISHTAR
HERSELF.

BUT BUT...
VAMPIRES CAN'T
BE DOCTORS,
CAN THEY?! I
MEAN THEY'RE
KNOWN FOR
EATING PEOPLE,
NOT TREATING
THEM!

.....
IDOTS.
I'M
SURROUNDED
BY
IDOTS.



NO...

...YOU'RE
A PERFECT
LIKENESS,
BUT YOU'RE
NOT DIAAGE,
ARE YOU?

SO
THEN,
WHO
ARE
YOU?

DID YOUR
MOTHER GIVE
YOU TWO
FACES? FIRST
YOUR OWN,
AND LATER,
HERS...

COULD
SHE...

...HAVE
HAD A
CHILD?



DIAAGE...



YOU
NEARLY
KILLED ME
WHILE I LAY
TRAPPED
WITHIN THE
BODY OF
A KYAWL
KITTEN.



I THOUGHT
YOU WERE
ONE OF
MY OLD
COMRADES,
SO I SPARED
YOU.



I
AM.

ALTHOUGH
YOU WEREN'T
SO CIVIL THE
LAST TIME
WE MET.

DO YOU
REMEMBER?
I WAS STILL
GATHERING
MY POWERS
AFTER BEING
REBORN.



DON'T
LET THAT
AMBITION
BE YOUR
DOWN-
FALL.

NOT
THAT IT
MATTERS,
NOW.

YOU HAVE
BECOME A
POWERFUL
VAMPIRE,
WITH GREAT
AMBITION.



HELLO,
SHARLEN.



I'M
RIGHT,
AREN'T I?
YOU'RE THE
GREAT AND
HORRIBLE
VAMPIRE
KING.



...
DUZELL?

HEH, HEH...
SOMEONE'S
BEEN
DOING THEIR
HOMEWORK.
HAVEN'T
THEY...







WHAT THE HELL IS
GOING ON HERE?
THAT'S, LIKE, THE
TWENTIETH GUY
WHO'S TRIED TO
TALK TO LEENE IN
THE PAST HOUR!

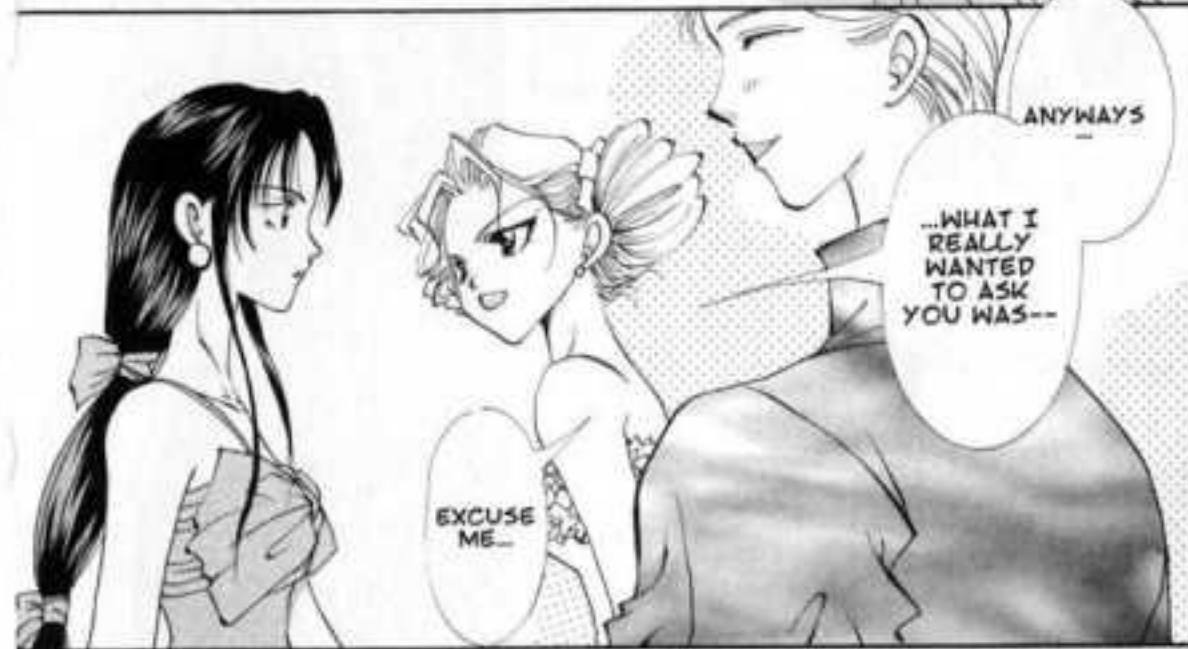
LEENE'S CUTE
AND ALL, BUT
THIS IS A BIT
EXCESSIVE.
AND BESIDES,
I HAVE THE
BETTER DRESS!



WHAT'S
UP WITH
THAT?



THE MEN
HERE TONIGHT!
I MUST
APOLOGIZE FOR
THEIR MANNERS.
CAN'T THEY
SEE I'M TRYING
TO HAVE A
CONVERSATION?



ANYWAYS

...WHAT I
REALLY
WANTED
TO ASK
YOU WAS--

EXCUSE
ME...



REALLY?
SIR
YUJEL?

YOU
ARE
SO
RIGHT.

EXCEPT
FOR SIR
YUJEL,
ALL MEN
ARE DOGS.

I
FORGOT!

LEENE
AND YU-
JINN HAD
A SUICIDE
PACT!



THINGS
HAVE DIED
DOWN A LOT
SINCE I GOT
MARRIED.
BUT WHEN
YOU'VE GOT
IT,
YOU'VE GOT
IT.

PLEASE,
IT'S NO
SECRET
THAT I'M
ONE OF THE
BEST-
LOOKING
GIRLS IN
ZI ALDA.

THE GUYS
AROUND
HERE
CAN'T GET
ENOUGH
OF YOU.

WOW,
LEENE!

WHAT'S
YOUR
SECRET?

Nana-
nana-
NA-NA!

THAT'S IT.
THIS BITCH
IS GOING
DOWN...

ATTENTION
FROM
PEOPLE
YOU DON'T
LIKE IS
JUST
ANNOYING.

NO
DOUBT.

BUT
UNLESS
YOU'RE
INTO THE
GUYS,
THEY MIGHT
AS WELL
BE DOGS,
RIGHT?



DO I
HAVE A...
BOY-
FRIEND?

UM...
WHY DO
YOU ASK?



JUST
CURIOUS,
THAT'S
ALL.



...WHAT
ABOUT
YOU?

AND
IF SO,
DOES HE
HAVE A
NAME?

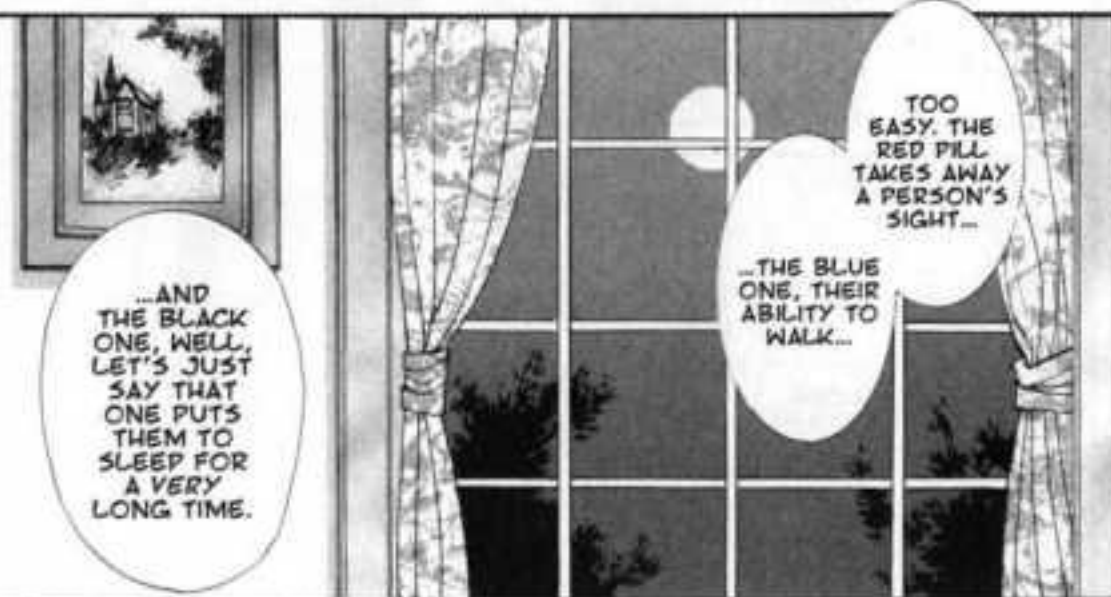
IS SHE
STILL
IN LOVE
WITH HIM?

ANYONE
SPECIAL
IN YOUR
LIFE?



WHAT?!

M-
M-ME?!





WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS, WHO'S THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN YOUR LIFE? WHO CAN'T YOU IMAGINE LIVING WITHOUT?

WELL, UM, LET'S SEE...

DUZIE IS CERTAINLY UP THERE.



DUZIE?



A CAT AND AN OLD MAN?

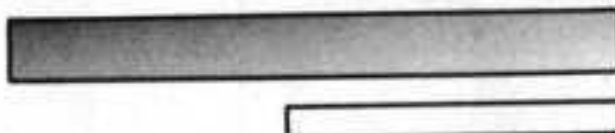
YEAH, HE'S MY PET KYAWL.

AND THE OLD FART, KELD. AT LEAST SOMETIMES.



THINK ABOUT WHICH ONES...

...WILL CAUSE THE MOST SUFFERING TO OUR DEAR PRINCESS.



MAYBE BOYFRIEND IS TOO NARROW A TERM.



SO, GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO WHICH FRIEND OF ISHTAR'S...

...YOU WANT TO USE EACH PILL ON.









NO, MA'AM. SHE'S VANISHED.



BUT WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER TWO?

DAMN, I WANTED HER ADVICE. NO MATTER, I THINK I HAVE THIS FIGURED OUT. I'LL SAVE THE BLACK PILL AS A GIFT TO ISHTAR, SO SHE CAN "END HER SUFFERING."



WELL...

I GUESS IT WAS GOING TO BE PUT DOWN, BUT THE PRINCESS SAVED IT! AND NOW HER BODYGUARD IS TRAINING IT!



VAGUELY.

REMEMBER THAT HORSE THAT ALMOST KILLED HER MAJESTY?



MI-LADY!

YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHAT I HEARD TODAY!



DUZIE!



YOUR DOCTOR ...?



YOU'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE? AND YOU STILL CAN'T FIND DIAAGE?



...ON
THE
HORSE!

I'LL USE
THE BLUE
PILL...

IF IT CAN'T
WALK, THEY'LL
HAVE TO PUT
IT DOWN!

AND IF ISHTAR
THINKS SHE'S
RESPONSIBLE...

...IT'LL
BE AS
IF SHE
KILLED
IT HER-
SELF.




SHE
SAVED
BACK-
BREAKER?

WHAT
AN
IDIOT!


BUT
WHEN SHE
RATTLED OFF
HER FAVORITE
PEOPLE, THE
FIRST NAME ON
THE LIST WAS
HER CAT.



AND WHAT
AN ANIMAL
LOVER!
RESCUING A
HORSE THAT
ALMOST
THREW HER!



THAT'S
IT!



I BET HE'LL
BREAK THAT
OLD HORSE
IN NO TIME.
PRINCESS
ISHTAR IS A
SAINT, MILADY.
PEOPLE JUST
CAN'T SEEM TO
GET ENOUGH
OF HER.





IF I'M
IN LOVE
WITH
ISHTAR...



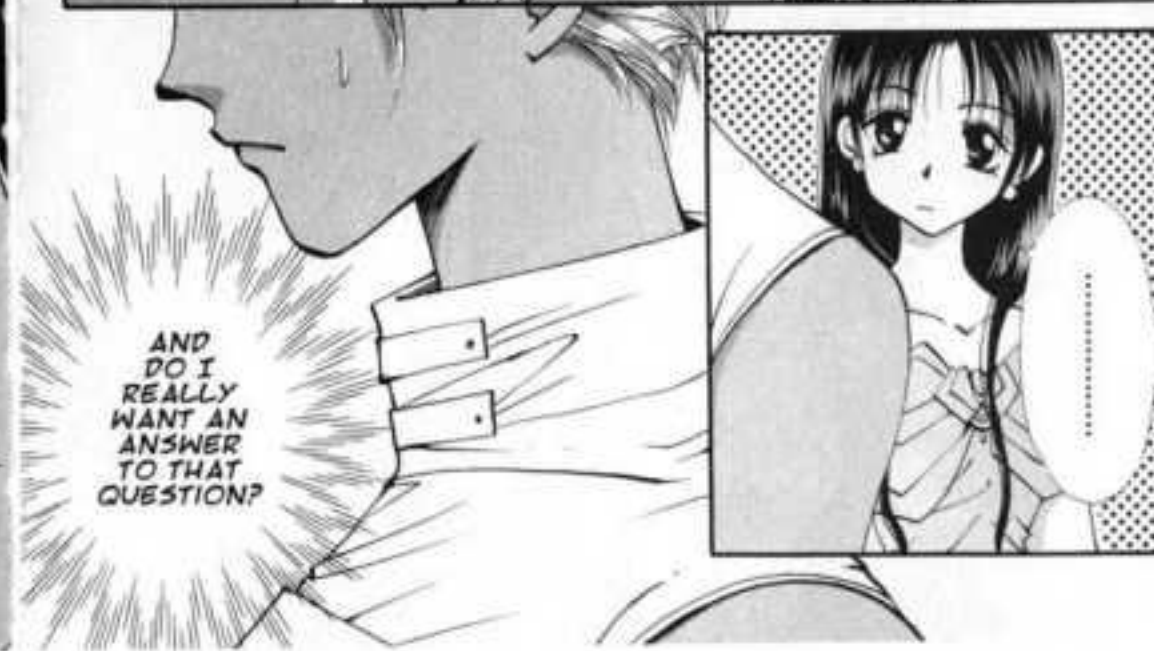
HOLD
ON A
SECOND!



WELL, YOU
LEFT OUT
A COUPLE
DETAILS,
AND DUZIE
PREFERS THE
WORD "CAT"
TO "KITTY,"
BUT...YEAH.



...THEN
WHICH
ISHTAR
AM I
IN LOVE
WITH?



AND
DO I
REALLY
WANT AN
ANSWER
TO THAT
QUESTION?

...I
SUPPOSE
THIS DOES
MAKE SENSE.

WELL...

SO,
ISHTAR...

...KNOWING
THAT DUZELL
HERE IS TRYING
TO KILL YOUR
REINCARNATED
GREAT-
GRANDFATHER,
NOT TO MENTION
WHATEVER POOR
SCHMUCK HE
WINDS UP
INHABITING...



PHELIOS WAS THIS BIG HERO. PEOPLE VIEW EVERY DECISION HE'S MADE AS WORTHY OF EMULATION.



YOU'LL NEVER WIN LEENE OVER WITH PRESENTS.

YOU WANT TO GIVE HIM TO LEENE, DON'T YOU?

YOU'RE A BRILLIANT TACTICIAN, ASHLEY, BUT YOU'RE A POOR STUDENT OF HUMAN NATURE.

YES.

ALL UNCLAIMED ANIMALS MUST BE TURNED OVER TO THE GENERAL STAFF OFFICE. I'M SORRY, BUT THAT'S THE LAW.

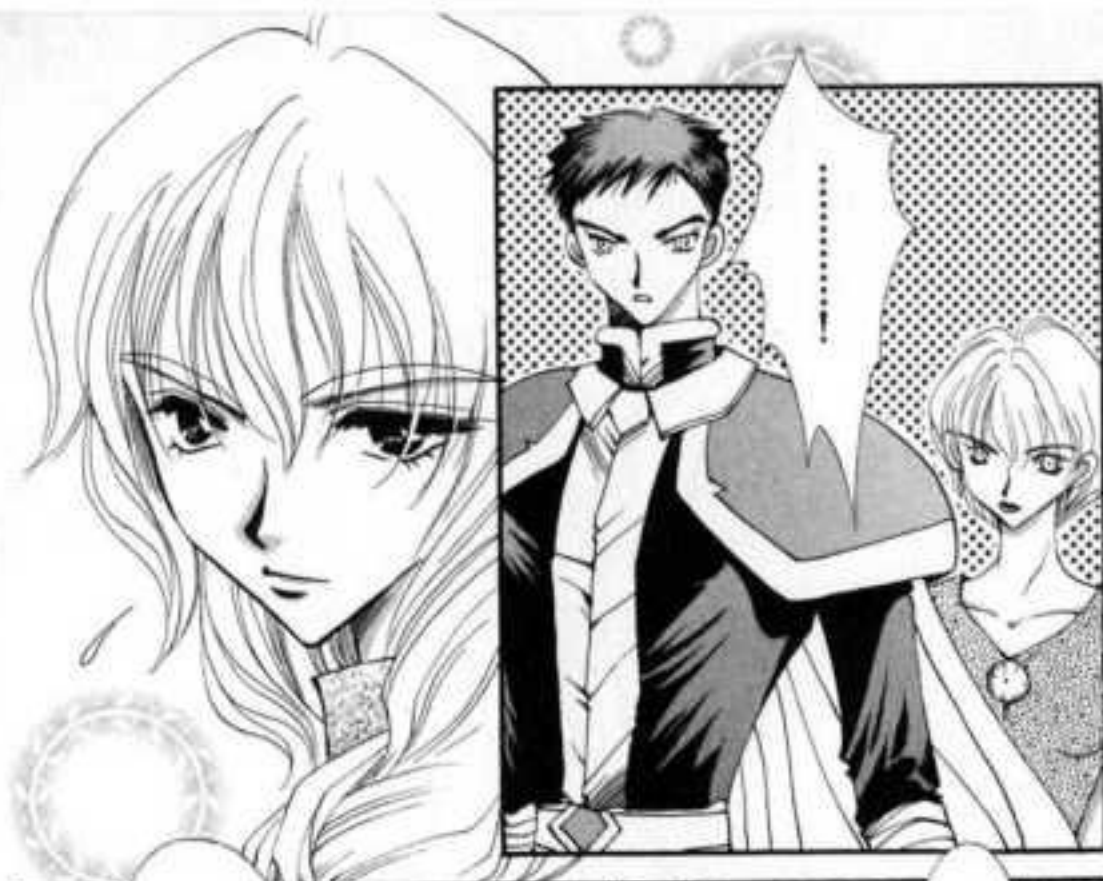
YOU WANT THIS HORSE?

BUT...

...UNLESS THEY WANT TO LEARN HOW TO FLY.

...THIS HORSE STILL HASN'T BEEN BROKEN. HE TRUSTS ME TO A CERTAIN EXTENT...

...BUT I WOULDN'T RECOMMEND YOU LET ANYONE ELSE MOUNT HIM...



CONSIDERING
THAT YUJINN
AND LEENE
USED TO BE
LOVERS...

HE'S REALLY
GOT SOME
GUTS TALKING
TO ASHLEY
LIKE THAT.



LET'S TRY
THIS. IF
YOU CAN
RIDE HIM,
ASHLEY,
HE'S
YOURS.



ARE
YOU
SAYING
...
...YOU
DON'T WANT
ASHLEY
TO HAVE
THE HORSE?



DARRES,
YOUR
THOUGHTS?



COME BY AND PICK HIM UP TOMORROW. HE'LL BE HERE.

VERY WELL.

HMM...



...THE HARDEST WAS...

POOR ASHLEY. HE HAS SUCH A HEAVY BURDEN TO BEAR.

OF ALL THE THINGS THAT HAVE BEEN DEMANDED OF HIM...



WAIT, I WAS THE RUDE ONE?

YOU KNOW, YOU MAY WANT TO BE A BIT MORE COURTEOUS WHEN HE COMES BY TOMORROW.

ASHLEY'S THE SMARTEST MAN IN ZI ALDA.



THAT'S WHY HE GOT UPSET WHEN PRINCESS ISHTAR TRIED TO RIDE HIM HARD.

POOR GUY.

LOOKS LIKE HE THREW A SHOE AND NO ONE BOTHERED REPLACING IT.

HE'S A BIT LAME IN HIS LEFT FORELEG AS A RESULT.



TELL HIS HANDLERS TO BE EXTRA CAREFUL...

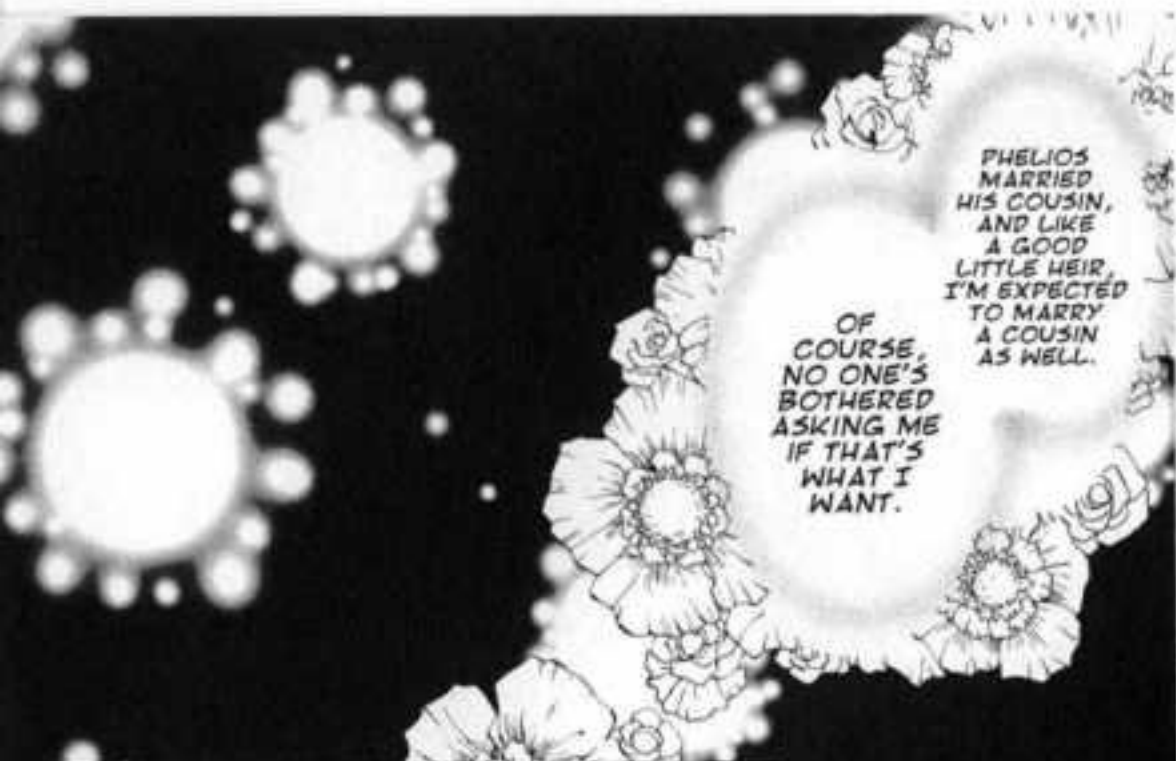
...BECAUSE HE REMEMBERS EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE.

I'VE REPLACED THE SHOE AND HE'S GOTTEN A LITTLE BETTER WITH PEOPLE... BUT HE STILL DOESN'T TRUST US.



AWW, HELL. IF YOU PROMISE YOU'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM, YOU CAN HAVE HIM.





PHELIOS MARRIED HIS COUSIN, AND LIKE A GOOD LITTLE HEIR, I'M EXPECTED TO MARRY A COUSIN AS WELL.

OF COURSE, NO ONE'S BOTHERED ASKING ME IF THAT'S WHAT I WANT.



...THAT'S WHY I WAS SO GLAD TO SEE VORD! HE SAVED ME FROM LEENE!

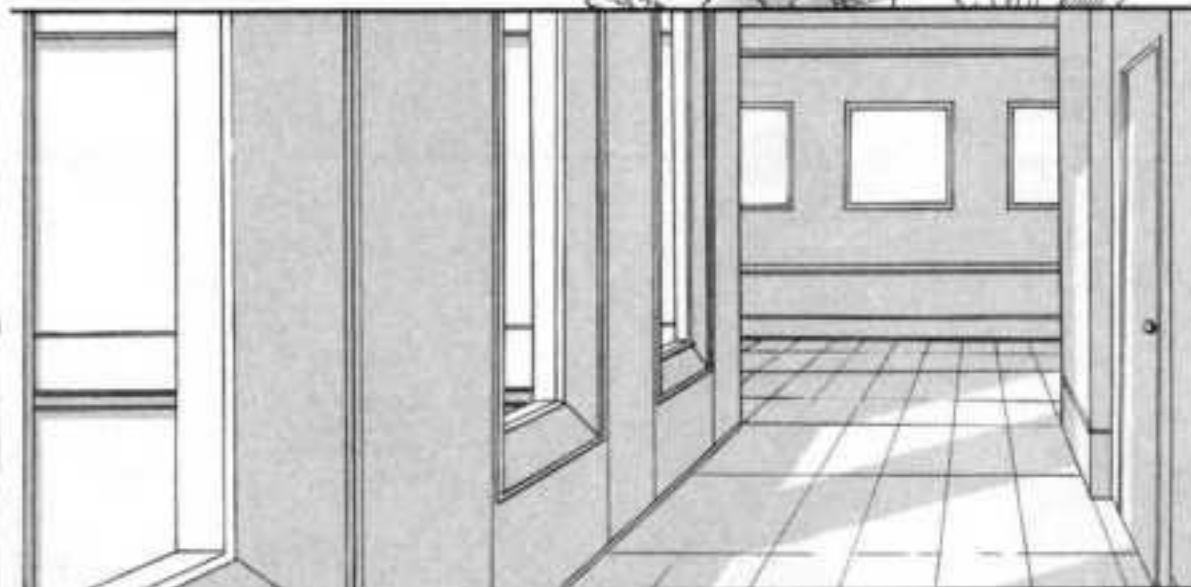
RIGHT, FALAN...

THAT GIRL'S WAY TOO FULL OF HERSELF. HER BUBBLE IS JUST SCREAMING TO BE BURST.



WE GREW UP TOGETHER. WENT TO THE SAME SCHOOL...

AND I NEVER GOT THE BEST OF HIM...NOT ONCE! LIKE I SAID, HE'S BRILLIANT.





吸血遊戯
セ・アルダ
南領篇
Act.9



AND
THAT'S
WHAT
I DON'T
GET.

LEENE?
NO,
SHE
ISN'T.



ハハハ...

MAYBE
SHE'LL
COULD
DRESS
UP IN
DRAG
AND
PARADE
AROUND
AT HER
NEXT
PARTY!
SHE CAN'T
STAND
BEING
OUTCLASSED
BY OTHER
GIRLS.
I CAN'T
IMAGINE
HOW SHE'D
RESPOND
TO BEING
SHOWN
UP...



どんより

SHE'S
CUTE
AND
ALL,
BUT
NO
ONE
WOULD
SAY
SHE'S
BEAUTIFUL!



.....



I HEARD THAT NO ONE ELSE WANTED IT.

SO I TOOK IT IN.

YOU REMEMBER THE HORSE THAT TRIED THROWING PRINCESS ISHTAR THE OTHER DAY?

WHAT I REALLY NEED IS A NEW CARRIAGE...



!!



A HORSE...?



AND YOU SHOULD SEE OUR FEED BILL! THEY DO EAT LIKE HORSES, YOU KNOW!

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'D WANT ANOTHER HORSE?
DADDY JUST GAVE ME A NEW GELDING LAST MONTH!



TOMORROW,
I'M GOING
TO TAKE
HIM ON A
LONG RIDE,
FIRST
THING!

IT'S
ALL
STARTING
TO COME
TOGETHER.

ISHTAR,
YOUR
ROYAL
ASS IS
MINE...



LEENE...

...THERE'S
ONE THING
I WANT YOU
TO PROMISE
ME.



OH,
THAT
HORSE!



YES!
YES!
YES!
OF COURSE
I WANT HIM!
YOU'VE
MADE
ME SO
HAPPY,
DEAR!



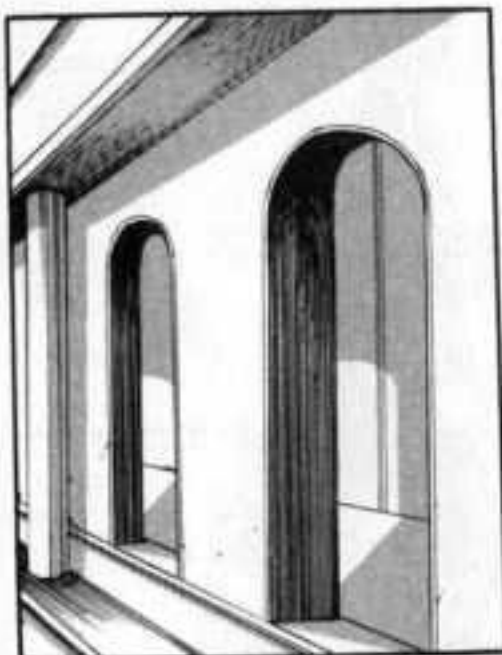
!

IF YOU
WANTED HIM,
I WAS GOING
TO LET YOU
HAVE HIM.
BUT SINCE
YOU DON'T--









YOU
WANT
TO GO
RIDING
AGAIN?



YEAH!



I
KNOW
HE HAS
OTHER
LOVERS!
THAT
DOESN'T
MATTER!

WE CAN
MARRY
PRINCESS
ISHTAR, FOR
ALL I CARE!
I'LL STILL
LOVE HIM!
AND ONLY
HIM!



BOTH
OF OUR
PARENTS
WOULD BE
THRILLED
IF WE
WOUND UP
TOGETHER.

YOU'RE
FROM
A GOOD
HOUSE.

IT'S NOT
THAT I
DON'T
LIKE YOU,
ASHLEY...
...BUT
WE'VE
KNOWN
EACH
OTHER
FOREVER.



BUT...

...I
LOVE
YUUEJEL!



I
ALWAYS
HAVE,
AND I
ALWAYS
WILL!!



WOW!

SO HE'S COMPLETELY TAME NOW? THAT'S GREAT!



HE SURE IS!

IF HE WASN'T, THEN I WOULDN'T BE RIDING HIM TOMORROW, WOULD I?



HOW COOL! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO CALL HIM?



WELL, ASHLEY GAVE HIM TO ME!

REMEMBER THAT HORSE YOU RODE THE OTHER DAY?



NO, HE WON'T.

BUT DARRES STOPPED THEM.

THEY WERE GOING TO PUT BACKBRE-- I MEAN, THAT HORSE, DOWN AFTER HE TRIED TO THROW YOU.



THAT HORSE? LEENE, HE'LL KILL YOU!



PUT DOWN?

EATING OUT OF HIS HAND?!

...HE'S BEEN TRAINING HIM. I HEAR HE'S BEEN BROKEN IN BEAUTIFULLY. HE'S EATING OUT OF DARRES' HAND AND EVERYTHING!

AND...

!!





WHAT THE HELL'S THE MATTER WITH ME?



WHY DO I FEEL LIKE I'M BEING PULLED APART FROM THE INSIDE?

...IS REALLY TWO ACTORS, PLAYING ONE PART?



IS IT BECAUSE THE ISHTAR I LOVE...



THANK YOU.



10
タン







HAVE I
REALLY
CHANGED
THAT MUCH?











TO BE
CONTINUED
IN VOLUME 9

VAMPIRE GAME

Next issue...



Leene literally picks her poison. With three different poisons to choose from, Leene is armed to avenge the woman she believes is responsible for stealing Yuujel's heart. The first of the three toxic pills causes blindness, the second makes the victim go lame, and the third brings about an untimely death. Yet despite all evidence to the contrary, Leene does have a conscience. Dealing in death is not her forte, and the fact that she's beginning to like Princess Ishtar certainly doesn't help.

Meanwhile, the rest of our crew must decide what to do if she does go through with her plan. And while the issue may be clear-cut to Darres, Yuujel and Lucy, it's not to Ashley. Leene is his wife, after all. Ashley has sworn an oath to defend Zi Alda and by extension, Phelosta, but how can he possibly choose between the woman he loves and the country he's sworn to protect?

Postscript



Carbuncle



VAMPIRE GAME™

When the news of Prince Yuujel's return reaches everyone in Zi Alda, all hell breaks loose, leaving Ishtar, Duzell and Darres speechless. Lady Leene's resentment becomes more apparent—although married to Captain Ashley, she still holds a flame for the prince. As her fury grows, so does the plot to destroy Ishtar and all those close to her!



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